## REMARKS

Claims 1, 8 and 9 have been amended.

The Examiner has rejected applicant's claims 1, 3-4 and 6-9 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Lobiondo patent (US Patent No. 5,287,194) taken in view of the Hanson patent (US Patent No. 6,148,346). The Examiner has rejected applicant's claim 2 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over the latter two patents taken with the Kitagawa et al. patent (US Patent No. 5,799,206). The Examiner has also rejected applicant's claim 5 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Lobiondo, Hanson and Kitagawa et al. patents taken in view of the Ogishima publication (US Pub. No. 2002/0083001). With respect to applicant's claims, as amended, these rejections are respectfully traversed.

Applicant's independent claim 1 has been amended to better define applicant's invention. More particularly, amended claim 1 recites a remote printing server which receives data from a client computer via a local network and sends data over a global network so as to print the data on a remote printer which does not exist in the local network, comprising: print response means for performing a print control protocol for a local printer in the local network so that the client computer can recognize said remote printing server as a local printer in the local network, receiving print data from the client computer and generating a print job for performing a response process when the data is printed; spooling means for spooling the print job generated by said print response means, informing the client computer of a completion of a print process in the local network before the print data is actually printed, and generating a print completion job; transferring data conversion means for converting the print completion job generated by said spooling means into a

format in which the job can be transferred to the remote printer over the global network using a predetermined transfer protocol; and remote transfer means for transferring the print completion job converted into a transferrable format by said transferring data conversion means to the remote printer over the global network using the predetermined transfer protocol. Independent claims 8 and 9 have been similarly amended.

As can be appreciated from the above, applicant's amended claim 1 includes the feature that a print control protocol is performed for a local printer in the local network so that the client computer can recognize the remote printing server as a local printer in the local network. The amended claims include the further feature that spooling means spools the print job, informs the client computer of a completion of a print process in the local network before the print data is actually printed, and generates a print completion job.

Such a construction is not taught or suggested by the cited art of record. More particularly, the Lobiondo patent describes its system as follows:

> As shown in FIG. 1, the scheduler routine can be used in conjunction with a network comprising a plurality of printers 10 . . . which are interconnected through a communication link 20, such as, for example the Xerox Ethernet system. The network can be a LAN and may comprise one or more modems 25 which interconnect the printers 10 across communication channels of a communication link 20, such as a telephone line. A plurality of workstations 30 are present at various locations within the network from which inputs for jobs to be printed can be entered. The workstations 30 can be a PC computer system, a dumb terminal, or an I/O device on one of the printers 10 such as the User Interface 40 shown in FIG. 2 . . ..
>
> The information, which contains criteria for printing the job, can be sent to and temporarily stored in a buffer, RAM or other storage means located within a print server 60 or associated with the network and accessible by the print server 60. A printshop scheduler 50, which may be in hardware or software, is located within the network... for analyzing the information relating to the job, the print job data itself and known information about the current capabilities of all printing resources

> within the network and scheduling the printing of print jobs at one or more of the printers 10 to obtain an efficient use of all available resources." (Emphasis Added).

As can be appreciated form the above, the Lobiondo patent discloses a system in which all the system components, i.e., printers 10, workstations 30, printer server 60 and printshop scheduler 50 are located on the same local network which includes the modems 25 and communication link 20. Thus, the Examiner's statement that "Lobiondo discloses a remote printing server (Print server 60, fig.1)" is not substantiated by the patent and, in fact, the server 60 is a local server serving its own local network.

It also follows that the Examiner's other arguments based on interpreting the server 60 as a remote server cannot be substantiated by the patent. Thus, the Examiner equates scheduler 50 of the Lobiondo patent to applicant's print response means arguing "the scheduler 50 is responsive to the capability and availability of each printer 10 . . . so that the client computer (Workstation 30, fig. 1) can recognize said remote printing server (Print server 60, fig. 1) as a local printer (Printers 10, fig. 1) in the local network (i.e., the network can be a LAN; see col. 3, lines 20-25, fig. 1), receiving print data from the client computer and generating a print job for performing a response process when the data is printed . . .."

As previously stated, server 60 is the local server for the local network and the scheduler 50 is the local scheduler for the local network. Thus, the scheduler 50 does not perform a print control protocol for a local printer in a local network so that the client computer can recognize a remote printing server as a local printer in the local network.

Additionally, applicant's claimed transferring data conversion means and the remote transfer means cannot be equated to the network spooler (server 60) and the scheduler 50 in

the Lobiondo patent. In particular, the network spooler (server 60) does not convert the print completion job generated by a spooling means into a format in which the job can be transferred to the remote printer over the global network using a predetermined transfer protocol; and the scheduler 50 does not transfer a print completion job converted into a transferrable format by said transferring data conversion means to the remote printer over the global network using a predetermined transfer protocol.

Applicant's amended independent claims 1, 8 and 9, and their respective dependent claims, all of which recite the above features, in one form or another, thus patentably distinguish over the Lobiondo patent.

The Examiner has also cited the Hanson patent and argues that the Hanson patent when combined with the Lobiondo patent will result in applicant's claimed invention. The Hanson patent discloses a configuration in which "each operating system can effectively communicate with peripherals connected locally or remotely. For example, if a user is operating from a Windows 3.1 PC 23, the dynamic driver 42 allows communication with peripherals directly attached, such as a printer 27, peripherals connected on an intranet network 20, such as printers 29-31, or peripherals connected to the internet 22, such a printer 36." In this regard, it is noted that the Examiner states that Hanson teaches "a remote printing server (WWW Server, fig. 1) which receives data from a client computer (PC 23, fig. 1) via a local network (Company A Local Net 20, fig. 1) and sends data over a global network (Internet 22, fig. 1) so as to print the data on a remote printer (WWW attached Printers 36, fig. 1)."

However, it is clear from FIG. 1 of the Hanson patent that transmissions from the PC 23 which are sent to the WWW server are sent by the WWW server to attached devices,

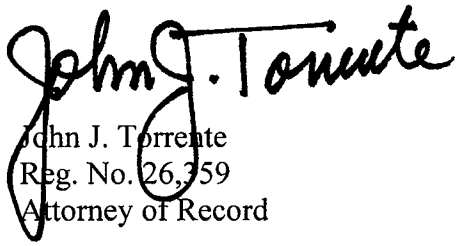
and are not sent by the WWW server over the local network 20 to the internet 22 and the WWW attached printers 36, as the Examiner has argued. Thus, it is evident that the Hanson patent does not teach or suggest a remote printing server which receives data from a client computer via a local network and sends data over a global network so as to print the data on a remote printer which does not exist in the local network. Nor can it, therefore, teach or suggest such a server comprising print response means for performing a print control protocol for local printer in a local network so that the client computer can recognize said remote printing server as a local printer in the local network. Nor can it teach or suggest applicant's spooling means, transferring data conversion means and remote transfer means.

Applicant's amended independent claims 1, 8 and 9, all of which recite these features, in one form or another, thus patentably distinguish over the combination of the Lobiondo and Hanson patents. The Kitagawa et al. patent and the Ogishima publication fail to add anything to the Lobiondo and Hanson patents to change this conclusion.

In view of the above, it is submitted that applicant's claims, as amended, patentably distinguish over the cited references. Accordingly, reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

Dated: July 2, 2009

Respectfully submitted,



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